

# Down on the Farm

## TO FARMER BOYS.

### They Should Read and Think Over the Four Short Stories Reproduced Here for Their Attention.

Here are four short stories culled from an exchange that are worth re-reading and should and will command attention from intelligent thoughtful readers. The exchange groups them as follows:

"Last fall the son of an Ohio farmer, having finished college, went to the Harvard law school. At the holidays he came home and announced that he wasn't going back. 'Why not?' asked the astonished family. 'Because,' replied the boy, 'there are nearly four hundred young fellows studying law at Harvard, and not one studying farming. I'd like, if you don't care, to go to the Ohio State University Agricultural School.' His father didn't care. On the contrary, he was so pleased that he argued feebly against it, so the boy wouldn't see how glad he was."

"Not many years ago a dry goods clerk began to think. He had made good and expected, so far as he had thought about it, to stay in the store. He knew he had a good business head. He noticed that a good many cement workers were very ordinary workmen. They had no special knowledge of cement and its uses, and no special business ability. He put in the next six months learning all he could about the cement business. Then he gave up his job, put on overalls and got a job laying sidewalks at a dollar and a half a day. He became a cement expert and went into business for himself, used business principles and is now one of the leading cement contractors of the country."

"In a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post, Forest Cressy tells of the astonishing success of city men in farming. He relates the story of a successful Chicago business man who applied business principles and a good head to a 400-acre Illinois farm. His neighbors laughed at first; now they shake off their hats to him for showing them how to farm."

"Some twenty years ago William N. Scarff was graduated from college. His father was a farmer over at New Castle. The young man had expected to take up his profession, to 'make some use of his education,' as the phrase goes. But his health failed and he thought he would stay around the farm for a year or so. His father had been raising a superior variety of blackberry. Young Scarff began propagating it. Son he was selling them to the neighbors and began to add other lines. He recovered his health, and during the process he had a vision. He stayed right on the farm and gradually branched out. He has been annexing all the farms in the neighborhood, and has one of the leading nurseries and seed establishments of this country."

"There are such chances lying all around. There are all sorts of occupations that are far from being crowded for men who have ability and good business sense. The boy who tried law is right; there are not enough fellows studying agriculture. There is a great opening for the young man who understands scientific farming, for the young man who believes in himself and is not afraid of work and use his head."

We know it is easy to give advice, it is easy for the fellow who leaves the farm to take out an uncertain assistance as a lawyer or a doctor or an editor to advise boys to stay on the farm. It is not strange that the boy on the farm, as a rule, pays little or no regard to such advice. But the above quotation contains not advice but suggestions."

Listen, Mr. Farmer boy. The same industry and attention that is required to make a moderately successful lawyer, doctor or editor, devoted to careful farming will make a shining success and a pot of money."

The boy with the stuff in him to make a second class lawyer or doctor and with the industry to attain that rank in either of those professions can support an automobile and a bank account at the same time if he studies scientific farming and devotes rlier.

#### Value of the Wheat Crop.

Yields of wheat are sufficiently well settled to justify estimates of its probable commercial value. The Southwest has finished threshing, and the Northwest is in the midst of harvesting. The winter wheat district is expected to yield approximately 500,000,000 bushels. On the Pacific Coast we shall have 80,000 bushels including California of both winter and spring. The entire spring wheat yield is now placed at 230,000,000 bushels, making 730,000,000 bushels for the entire country. That is exactly the quantity in the final estimate of last year. The crop is large, and two large crops in succession generally mean lower values for the later than for the earlier of the two.

December wheat at Chicago is now selling at 90 cents a bushel. In allowance of 10 cents less for the farm price, below the Chicago price would bring the crop of this year to have a total value of \$684,000,000. That would make the total value the largest in four years. At five cents less a bushel, or 75 cents at the farm, the total would be \$647,500,000.—Wall Street Journal.

**Crop Co-Operation and Rural Banks.** Lieutenant Governor E. L. Daughtridge Tuesday night told the members of the Chamber of Commerce how the European farmers cooperate in the marketing of crops and in managing rural banks or credit houses. The speaker was a member of the American commission that visited Europe to investigate these things, and he delivered his message here. The producers are decreasing while the consumers are increasing, and the problem of feeding the masses is becoming great-

er each year, Mr. Daughtridge said.

That North Carolina farmers could profit by adopting in one form or other some of the methods employed by European farmers, the speaker was certain. The observations and conclusions of the commission have been printed in an abridged form, but a more extended report will be issued later.—Raleigh Times.

#### A Year of Good Crops.

From present indications this is going to be one of the most bountiful crop years that has been seen in Vance county and this section of the state in a long time. This includes tobacco, cotton, corn, and in fact about everything that grows on the farm. The corn crop was practically a failure in Vance county last year owing to the long and severe drought that came along in July and continued until fall. But if seasons are good from now on, there will be an abundance of corn made in the county this year. Many good farmers say it is the best prospect for corn the county has had in many years and it has been a long time since any one saw such a tobacco crop in the county. Cotton and other crops look promising, and if there are no reverses it appears that Vance county farmers are going to be in clover for a while.—Henderson Gold Leaf.

#### The Cultivation of Corn.

Successful corn culture depends as much upon the "know how" as does success in any other business. Of course, a deep, humus-filled soil is the first consideration, but much depends upon the cultivation given the corn after it is up. The farmer who understands and practices the best principles of corn growing, who knows the root-system, the movements of soil moisture and the uses of soil mulches, will make a good corn crop in spite of adverse seasons of rainfall and drought. The one who does not understand these things attributes his failures to the wet weather, the dry weather, the hot weather, the cold weather, or something else the effects of which he should be able to obviate. In the farm demonstration work last season some big crops of corn were made where no rain fell from the time the corn was planted till it was mature. Yet the yield of corn in this country are more dependent upon rain fall during the growing season than upon any one thing else. This should not be.

But let us see that we understand what proper cultivation does. Every good farmer knows that cultivation is to save the moisture, to destroy germinating weed seeds, to liberate plant food and to warm and aerate the soil. If the first two are accomplished the others are too. The successful farmer never allows his soil to become crusted over because he knows it is then losing moisture. To prevent this crusting also destroy weed and grass seed that may be coming up in the soil. So we see that all that is necessary is to cultivate often enough to keep the soil loose on top. One of the experiment stations has found that during very hot weather a single corn stalk will take from the soil and evaporate as much as ten pints of water in one day. It requires about 300 pounds of water to produce one pound of dry matter. So we learn that corn is a crop that requires immense amounts of moisture. Yet, throughout this section, we have sufficient rainfall every year to produce two or three crops on all our land. The wise farmer is he who has learned how to catch the rainfall and keep it in the soil until it is needed.

As to depth of cultivation, we must remember that corn belongs to the grass family and therefore has a fine, fibrous, extensive root system. By the time corn is a foot high the roots may be lapping between the rows. The roots grow outward through the soil from two to four times as fast as the stalk grow upward. To destroy these roots in cultivation is to cut off the feeding powers of the corn. It very often happens that the soil needs a rather deep stirring while the corn is small and before the roots get out far. If this is the case, it should be given, but care must be taken not to cultivate deeply later. The Indiana experiment station has shown that corn cultivated about two inches deep yielded 42.36 bushels; that cultivated three inches deep yielded 42.56 bushels; while that cultivated four inches deep yielded only 37.92 bushels. Another station found that shallow cultivation yielded 81.3 bushels per acre, but deep cultivation gave only 74.1 bushels.

As to the number of times to cultivate corn, this will depend upon conditions. The thing to keep in mind is to keep a mulch on the surface until the corn has fully tasseled. In many cases it will pay to cultivate until some of the "silks" begin to turn brown. It is a critical time with corn when it is maturing the grain. It should not be neglected then.—C. R. Hudson, Raleigh.

"In 1912 Texas cultivated 10,927,000 acres in cotton, securing eleven-twenty-fifths of a bale per acre, one of the best averages of recent years, making a total of 4,850,000 bales," said Frank A. Briggs, of Dallas, at the Raleigh. "Had the Texas cotton growers made the average per acre as did the industrial congress contestants the Texas crop would have amounted to 11,364,080 bales. The total crop of the United States for 1912 was 13,820,000 bales. Texas could have cut its cotton acreage in half and produced the same number of bales under industrial congress methods. The same process of reasoning can be used with reference to other crops, for there is no reason why the farmers of the state cannot average in acre yield what 5,000 what 5,000 farmers have averaged under the same conditions."

"Last March more than 7,000 far-

mers, representing nearly every county in the state, had registered as contestants in model farm work. By the time the list is closed there will be fully 10,000. These 10,000 men will increase their acre production fully 100 per cent, if last year's records are equaled. Each one will have a beneficial influence on every farmer in his neighborhood. Benefits coming to the state, its business interests, and to other citizens cannot be estimated. Results have proved that the average Texas farm is mined, not cultivated and that the present total production of cotton, corn, wheat, oats, and other farm commodities should be secured from one-half the acreage used."—Washington Post.

#### Care for the Horse.

During the hot summer months many of our contemporaries are rereading the cause of the horse, man's most useful beast of burden. We have laws that prevent cruelty to animals and the horse is, of course, included. A man can be punished for downright cruelty to his horse, as for instance, driving him too hard or beating him unmercifully. But few men are mean enough to cause their horses to suffer in this way. It takes a mighty mean man to drive or whip a horse almost to death. Horses suffer more at the hands of the careless and thoughtless man than from hard driving or whipping. Too many people take little thought for the want and needs of the horse. From the current issue of one of our best farm papers we take the following relative to the proper care of the horse:

"One man should do all of the horse-feeding. Change of feeders may mean change of feed or irregularity in feeding. These things cause colic."

"Always give the drinking-water before feeding. Always gradually accustom a horse to any change of feed, and especially to new oats and new hay. Have the teeth attended to by a veterinarian at least once a year. Spread the grain out thin in a large, shallow feed-box to prevent the horse from eating too fast. Allow plenty of time for the perfect mastication of feed. In hot weather allow a little drinking-water at noon, then feed a pound or so of hay while the horse is cooling off, then give more drinking-water and then the full feed of oats."—Winston Journal.

#### Sow Oats Early This Year.

It is not too early to begin planning for getting the oats sowed early enough this fall. Year after year oats are sowed during November or left until February or March, that might have been put in during the latter part of September or during the first half of October, if the work had been better planned.

It is better to sow oats in cotton, their broadcast or in drills—two drills between each row—early in October than to sow them next February. It is always a difficult matter for the cotton and corn farmer to get the oats in early enough, but every effort practicable should be exerted to get them in before the middle of October and in the northern part of those sections where oats are sowed in the fall, they should be sowed by September 15.—Progressive Farmer.

#### Killed in Effort to Save Sick Child.

The Boone Democrat of last week tells of a distressing homicide near Banner Elk, Avery county. A child of Roby Carter was taken sick in the night. Carter was working for C. B. Vancannon and he took the liberty of going to Vancannon's stables and taking a horse to ride for a doctor. The Democrat's story says:

"The horse was missed and Bailey Johnson, who knew Carter well, started in pursuit. Carter had gotten a bottle of medicine for the little child and was hurrying home when he met Johnson, who fired upon him twice, both shots going wild. Carter cried out, 'Don't shoot! It's Roby!' But again the report of the rifle rang out on the midnight air, and the unfortunate man fell to the ground fatally wounded, crushing the much prized bottle of medicine in his fall. We are told that his assistant, seeing what he had done, went for a physician and the left for parts unknown. The latest report is to the effect that the little child who cost its father his life has since died, and the mother is absolutely prostrated with grief."

#### Women Work Reforms.

Advocates of woman suffrage in the State of Washington say, without qualification, that since women have had the privilege of ballot, their influence for good has been felt both at the election and in the results obtained. They say also that many men who before had been against women voting, have come to the conclusion that it is a good thing for the State in general, but particularly so for the cities. In the despatches to The Sun from Tacoma and Seattle the correspondents show that women vote very much the men do, with the exception that women think more of principle than men are generally credited with doing at elections. Some seeming anomalies resulted in the Washington elections, such as "dry" towns being made liquor selling towns, since women became voters. This was explained by the facts that women investigated and discovered that "dry" towns sold as much liquor illegally as they did when as "wet" towns, the liquor was dispensed with the sanction of the law.

Many of the civic improvements in Washington, such as parks play grounds and bathhouses, and their extensions and enlargements, are credited to the influence of women at elections. All in all, the opinion appears to prevail from what the correspondents say, that Washington is well satisfied with women suffrage and that no effort carrying much weight will be made to change back to the old way.—N. Y. Sun.

#### She Should Worry.

She wore a darning without, folks thought she wore it on a bet. And everywhere she chanced to go. The men would rush to see the show.

## PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR P.M. EXAMS.

### North Carolina Aspirants for Postmaster Jobs Will be Given Competitive Examination.

A special dispatch to the Asheville Citizen from Washington says: Although practically not a wheel has been turned during the past month towards making preparation for examining all the applicants for fourth class postoffices it is quite probable that the plan for holding these examinations in North Carolina some time in September will be carried out.

The cause for the present delay is the fact that the civil service commission has no available fund to defray the expenses of taking the thousands of examinations. President Wilson months ago modified former President Taft's order placing all the fourth class postmasters under the protecting wing of the civil service system, by ordering that competitive examinations should be held to select postmasters.

#### No Funds.

But when Postmaster General Burleson called on the civil service commission to carry out the order and submitted the list of states made up into groups of four in order in which he wished the examinations to be held, he discovered that there was no funds available to carry out the enormous task.

Then it was that Postmaster General Burleson and Commissioner Black called on the house appropriation committee, explained the situation and asked that money be provided as soon as possible. It was following this conference, as told in these dispatches before, that the Tar Heel delegates discovered that North Carolina had been placed in the ninth group of four states to be examined, and not in ninth position, or the third group as had been supposed. But this matter has all been arranged now and through the insistent urging of the delegation North Carolina has been placed in the first group of eight.

At this conference also it was arranged that the appropriation committee would ask for enough money at one time to defray the expenses of all the examinations and that the examinations should be held in eight states at a time, all to be examined with a year from the start. The commission estimated that \$20,000 would be necessary and accordingly an item for that amount was inserted in the urgent efficiency bill which has been prepared by the appropriations committee and is now ready for passage.

It is useless, however, for the house to pass the bill until an agreement can be made with the senate leaders to make way for the bill when it reaches that body. Under the rules obtaining in the senate no business can now be taken up until the tariff bill is out of the way, unless a special rule is passed and arrangements made with Senator Simmons and the members of the finance committee having the tariff bill in charge. With a view to asking such an arrangement Congressman Page today conferred with Senator Overman, who is chairman of the rules committee. Senator Overman will take the matter up with Senator Simmons and the other senate leaders to decide whether the bill can be put right through the senate if it is passed by the house. There is no doubt about the ability of the house leaders to pass it through the house but to do so would be useless without the existence of a working agreement on the part of the senate to take it up immediately.

Congressman Page, a member of the house appropriation committee, said to day that he believed it was still possible to pass the urgent efficiency bill through both houses and have the civil service commission get down to business in time to have the examinations held in North Carolina in September, as previously arranged.

### THREE NEW BUILDINGS ARE BEING MADE READY.

#### Fair Grounds Will be Better Stocked Than Ever—Death Trap Will be Avoided This Year.

The three new stock buildings being erected at the State Fair grounds have reached the point for the permanent roof and will be ready for the fair before its opening.

Three big structures these will be. The exhibit horses will occupy the largest, 55' by 160, which is the twin brother of the cattle building. In the great barn for the horses, 88 stalls and four feeding places will take up the great space and in the cattle building, also 55' by 150, there is room enough for the best exhibition of cows that any fair in this State has had.

The sheep and swine shed, 45' by 160, has about 160 reservations for its prize animals and a concrete floor is ready to be laid. Excessive rains have interrupted the work of Contractor W. B. Barrow, but nothing is likely to interfere with its completion earlier than the contemplates.

These buildings are in a direct line with the handsomer of the group on the grounds and form a symmetrical plan. Engineer J. M. Kennedy is drawing them after the approved designs of bigger fair grounds. The buildings have been erected upon a site which a few weeks ago was a ravine. The holes in the earth are being filled and the grounds are becoming uniform.—Raleigh News and Observer.

#### Paw Knows Everything.

Willie—Paw, why do men get divorced. Paw—To correct a miss-take, my son.

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